

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SONS OF THE REVOLUTION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

HON. CARLOS J. MOORHEAD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. MOORHEAD. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor for me to bring to the attention of my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives the 103d birthday of the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California, founded in my home State in May 1893.

The Sons of the Revolution was first organized in New York on December 18, 1875, primarily by members of the Society of Cincinnati, the oldest and most revered Revolutionary War group.

The Sons of the Revolution in the State of California was formed on the 8th day of May 1893 and incorporated in the county of Los Angeles 4 days later by members of the New York Society then living in California.

The membership of the Sons of the Revolution is composed solely of the posterity of those individuals who served in the Revolutionary War in a number of vital capacities. In order to be eligible for membership in the history-making Sons of the Revolution, an individual must have had a family member who participated in the Revolutionary Army, Marines, or Navy; served the Continental Congress or the Congresses of any of the Thirteen Colonies that supported the Revolutionary War effort.

As one might expect, Mr. Speaker, the membership rolls of the Sons of the Revolution make for fascinating and famous reading.

Through their various patriotic, historical, and educational activities, this storied organization has and continues to encourage and inspire the people of California and the United States. It continues to honor the memory of those brave individuals who pledged their lives, fortunes, and sacred honor so that all Americans could enjoy the freedoms and liberties established more than 200 years ago under our Constitution and enjoyed by all today.

To a considerable extent, Mr. Speaker, this inspiration and education has been accomplished through the Sons of the Revolution Library, which has operated in my hometown of Glendale for the past 103 years. The library has received no financial support from any governmental agencies. It has been kept open, free-of-charge, to the public in keeping with the purposes of the society to perpetuate the memory of the brave men who fought in the Revolutionary War.

The library with a collection of more than 35,000 volumes, is well-known as one of the largest genealogical and historical collections of its type in California.

The library is not only blessed with a magnificent collection of books and manuscripts, but also houses some exceptionally rare artifacts. These include George Washington's leopard skin saddle pad, one of two remaining

silk flags reviewed by George Washington, early U.S. Navy boarding swords and leather fire buckets from Adm. David G. Farragut's flagship, U.S.S. *Hartford*, just to name a few.

Not only does the library serve as a valuable research tool, it also serves as a meeting place for the Daughters of the American Revolution, the California Society of the War of 1812, the Aztec Club of 1847, the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States, the Military Order of Foreign Wars of the United States, the Army and Navy Union of the United States, U.S. Submarine Veterans, Society of Colonial Wars in the State of California.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased and honored to recognize and pay tribute to the Sons of the Revolution in the State of California on their 103d birthday. We only have to travel a short way from our borders to realize how richly blessed we are as a people and a nation. We have liberties and opportunities few in history have enjoyed. For this untold bounty, we owe much to the Sons of the Revolution and their families.

HONORING THE LANCASTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I am taking this opportunity to applaud the invaluable services provided by the Lancaster Volunteer Fire Department. These brave, civic-minded people gave freely of their time so that we may all feel safer at night.

Few realize the depth of training and hard work that goes into being a volunteer firefighter. To quote one of my local volunteers, "These firemen must have an overwhelming desire to do for others while expecting nothing in return."

Preparation includes twice monthly training programs in which they have live drills, study the latest videos featuring the latest in firefighting tactics, as well as attend seminars where they can obtain the knowledge they need to save lives. Within a year of becoming a volunteer firefighter, most attend the Tennessee Fire Training School in Murfreesboro where they undergo further, intensified training.

When the residents of my district go to bed at night, they know that should disaster strike and their home catches fire, well-trained and qualified volunteer fire departments are ready and willing to give so graciously and generously of themselves. This peace of mind should not be taken for granted.

By selflessly giving of themselves, they ensure a safer future for us all. We owe these volunteer fire departments a debt of gratitude for their services and sacrifice.

IN HONOR OF GEN. VANG PAO

HON. GEORGE P. RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize a special leader from the 19th Congressional District, Gen. Vang Pao. He is deserving of the highest commendations for his many contributions to the development of the Hmong and Laotian communities in central California.

In his native country, Gen. Vang Pao served in the military to promote democracy and freedom for the Laotian people. He was a young military leader in the Royal Lao Army in association with the French Government during World War II and the chief military commander of the 2d Military Division in the Northern Provinces of Laos, 1960-75, in partnership with the United States during the Vietnam war. During the war, Gen. Vang Pao's troops helped block the supply line running from North Vietnam through Laos to South Vietnam, and he and his troops helped to save thousands of American lives and rescue hundreds of American pilots who had been shot down near the Vietnam/Laos border.

In 1977, Gen. Vang Pao founded the Lao Family Community and established branches throughout the United States to provide employment services, vocational training, counseling, cultural orientation, health education, English classes, and resettlement services for Southeast Asian refugees. In 1982, he founded the Hmong National Council to preserve Hmong culture and to help the Hmong people in the United States in areas of social adjustment, family services, and integration into the American mainstream. Gen. Vang Pao founded the Lao Movement for Democracy to seek and promote peace, democracy, and human rights for the Southeast Asian nations.

The contributions that Gen. Vang Pao has made to the Hmong and Laotian people of California have been invaluable. He was made a lasting impression on those individuals with whom he has been associated. I am pleased to have him as a constituent in California's Central Valley.

HONORING RICHY RAYMOND

HON. ELIZABETH FURSE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 8, 1996

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very special fourth grader from Carlton Elementary School of Yamhill County, OR. This exceptional young man took it upon himself to help the victims of the February floods which devastated communities throughout our region.

Richy Raymond believed that he and his classmates could lend a hand and raise

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